



The I/O Connector

The newsletter of the San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

December '87

(SDACE * P.O. BOX 203076 * SAN DIEGO * CA * 92120)

Elections in December!

Be sure to be at the December meeting to vote for your 1988 club officers' slate. Support SDACE!

December Meetings on Thursday the 3rd!

Mark your calendar and don't forget: the joint 8-bit/ST meeting will be on the first Thursday of December, at 6:30, at the North Park Rec Center, Adult Center, 2719 Howard Street

Renewal time is near!

SDACE desperately needs you to renew your membership. Your support is needed now more than ever. Dues will be going up to \$20 per year soon, so sign up in December to get the \$15 rate! Check your expiration date on the newsletter label!

Merry Christmas!

The San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

(SDA.C.E.) is an independant, non-profit organization and user group with no connection to Atari Corp. Membership includes access to the program library, subscription to the **I/O Connector**, and access to any other club activities. Permission to reprint articles from this newsletter in any non-commercial form is permitted withot specific authorization, as long as original credit is given.

Commercial Advertising Rates

\$35 - Full \$30 - Back \$20 - Half \$10 - Quarter \$5 - Business card
(Prepaid ads--pay for five months, get sixth free.)

S.D.A.C.E. Officers

President	David Delgadillo	475-6790	V.P. (8-bit)	Ron Miller	748-7195
V.P. (ST)	Rick DeHaven	284-2365	Treasurer	Tom Andert	287-4198
Secretary	Bruce Lawson	229-0380	8-bit Librarian	David Becker	280-1330
ST Librarian	Mike Odegard	287-9282	Memshp Ofc	Dick Haitt	541-7034
Newsletter	Peter Payne	560-4272	<u>New Editor</u>	<u>Tom Bryant</u>	<u>224-8975</u>

(Call between 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm please)

Correspondence address:

**San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 203076
San Diego, CA 92120**

S.D.A.C.E. Bulletin Boards

S.D.A.C.E. 8-bit BBS

Sysop: Eddie Woods

(619) 566-3430

300/1200 BAUD/24 Hrs.

S.D.A.C.E. ST BBS

Sysop: Rick DeHaven

(619) 284-3821

300/1200/2400 Baud/24 hrs.

Submissions To The Newsletter

are most welcome, and are due by the second Monday of the month, for the next month's newsletter. Mail printed copy or returnable disks with text files (ST single sided format please) to the club's P.O. Box, or upload the file to one of the SDA.C.E. bulletin board systems.

Buy/Sell/Trade

ads, available on a space-available basis, are free to club members. The Editor will accept ads at meetings, through the club's P.O. Box, or via telephone. Deadline for classifieds is the same as articles, the second monday of the month.

Don's skip this because it's the
Editor's Final Column

Here it is: my very last newsletter! It's been a long and fulfilling year for me as the editor of the *Connector*, but the time has come for me to move on, mainly for reasons of time. Attending SDSU, working nights, and trying to squeeze in time for sleep has begun to take its toll, and I have to let someone else carry the torch. My replacement, Tom Bryant (his number is listed on opposite page) will be a capable and dedicated editor, and just to make sure he is, I'll be hanging around for a while. I'm not quitting SSPACE, of course; on the contrary, I'll try to keep my foot in the door at the meetings and such.

Speaking of Tom, he has a 1040 and a Magic Sac, and will be going to the meetings and logging onto the club BBSs soon, with his new modem. I always encouraged feedback and criticism of my job as newsletter, and even though few ever took the time to say yea or nay how they felt about the newsletter, I hope some will with Tom. I encourage all of you to get a feel for him, to talk to him, and help him in any way possible. His first newsletter will be January.

It's election time! Be sure and be at the December meeting (a joint meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month at the North Park facility). I'll leave it to Dave to talk about the elections, but believe me, this will be a good meeting, and all should go. We will definitely have door prizes, including software, so be there or be square. As I said, I'll be running for club Secretary, and hope to be around at least another year.

This being my lame duck newsletter and all, I can take the liberty to say some things I might otherwise want to skip. If I rub some of you the wrong way, forgive me.

1) The 8-bit SIG is a dud. There's no contest; it's totally lame. The past year has seen it decline sharply, with less and less members attending the meetings. I don't want to condemn the Atari 8-bits completely, but it seems clear to me that if they're going to survive in our club in any way, the 8-bit owners are going to have to get a life and go to the meetings. Support SSPACE, or we can't support you. If the trend holds true, the 8-bit will never hope to flourish again, and it will eventually die.

2) Apathy reigns in SSPACE. Another truth. No one cares about anything. No one offers

any feedback of any kind, for anything. If you're not one of the few who complain about whatever they feel like complaining about at the meetings (and so few attend meetings, if seems, although I might be wrong about this since I, myself, can seldom attend) then we hear nothing from you for the whole year. No interest is taken, no way. And contributions to the newsletter, haha! What a joke. Reading through the newsletters of other clubs around the country, I am often depressed about how few care enough to do anything at all. Yes, I'm talking to you! You, reading this newsletter. Everyone in the club is guilty.

3) SSPACE isn't rich. I can't quote numbers in print, but SSPACE's financial standing is very poor. There are several reasons why: the purchase of the 520ST for the ST BBS, the extra fees we were forced to pay for use of the North Park Rec Center a few months ago, and the giant deficit-causing newsletters of my early reign of terror as Newsletter Editor are all major cases. The bottom line is: we could die next year if membership drops off, or something unforeseen happens. **SSPACE desperately needs you to do your part and renew your membership, buy disks of the month, and support our newsletter advertisers.** As lame-duck newsletter editor, I'm begging you to renew!

Well, I'm belaboring the point, I'm afraid, and I apologize. But look at it from the point of view of the club officers, myself included. It'd sure be nice if the club weren't taken for granted like it is. Oh well, why complain about it...

A note on modems. The SSPACE ST BBS is running off a Mitac 2400, loaned by Mark Lawless of Computers Plus. A collection will be taken up among the ST users for the modem at the meeting. Now the "big three" ST BBSs, ST-SSPACE, ST Midi Connection and Computer Boulevard are all 2400 baud. Does that tell you something? Maybe it's time for you to graduate to a better modem. The local ST dealerships have good quality 2400 baud modems for under \$200 now, so drop by and have a look. You'll be glad you did. I've been running 2400 for nearly a year now, and it's been the best move I ever made.

Please see EDITOR, page 4.

A real live Letter to the Editor

[Editor's note: I'd heard about these things in my high school journalism class: they were referred to as Letters to the Editor. You see them all the time in other club's newsletters. Shocked almost comatose at actually receiving one, I wondered if I was dreaming. I stared dumbly at the piece of paper for nearly three minutes, not comprehending the massive implications of what I held. *My god*, I thought, *this can't be real!* It was as if the I/O Connector had, by the receipt of this letter at the club's P.O. Box, been suddenly transformed into a real live newsletter. At that moment, standing in front of the USPS in Mission Gorge, reading the letter, my mind was greeted with a vision of a fiery phoenix, rising from the ashes of a deadend, uninteresting periodical, and transforming into a veritable shining book of knowledge, born of Ready, Set, Go 3 and sent to Atari users everywhere. Fantasies of advertisers lining up outside my door filled my mind, of front page headlines on *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Times*, proclaiming the birth of a new *I/O Connector*.

But I linger; on with the Letter.]

Dear SDACE,

I am a registered owner of XLEnt's excellent word processor, and have had just one problem with my version 2 programs: it will not work under my favorite Disk Operating System, SpartaDos by ICD.

The word processor works fine when used with Atari Dos 2.5, even when just binary loading the Autorun.sys to launch the program. However, the Autorun.sys on the XLEnt Word Processor does not load properly under SpartaDos 3.2d. Perhaps there is some sort of memory conflict or wrong system call; the word processor comes onto the screen, but is not functional.

This is very disappointing, for I have all my utilities in SpartaDos double density, and I am forced to use Atari Dos 2.5 for text files. The Catalog, from Antic Magazine, stated that the XLEnt word processor would work with any Dos, including SpartaDos. When I called Antic, they told me I must take the issue up with XLEnt, for Antic

is only the distributor.

When I did call XLEnt regarding the non-functioning of XLEnt's First Word Processor under ICD's SpartaDos, they mentioned the only person that could help me was the author of the software, and he was a free-lance programmer; XLEnt is only the distributor of the product.

Who can help me? Perhaps I can send my original disk to ICD or have some local SpartaDos guru make a patch Autorun.sys. I don't know. If anyone can help, please let me know.

Gilbert Soares

Editor, cont'd from page 3

For SDACE, 1988 will be a year of changes and growth. The ST SIG can be expected to keep expanding, as more people invest in them. The 8-bit group will hopefully be revitalized by the efforts of Ron Miller and David and Marjorie Becker; only time will tell. To say that the 8-biters might not have any group left a year from now seems premature to me, but it can't be denied that the 8-biters aren't supporting the club as a whole or their SIG, and they're dying. I hope this doesn't happen, because, as most of you know, my first love was an Atari 8-bit, and I am loath to see them go the way of the Timex and the TI-99...

Financially, SDACE should be better off next year. With the \$20 dues, keeping the newsletter at its present size and/or raising more advertisers, and no more unpleasant financially-draining surprises, we should be on safe footing soon; that is, provided you renew your membership. That our membership, currently under 175, will shrink as the 8-bit SIG gets smaller seems obvious; hopefully, something will be done to balance that out. If you have friends who are into Atari and want to help support us, bring them and their checkbook along to the next meeting. It's important that everyone renew their subscription.

This is the last I'll be seeing of you all from this end of the newsletter. Thank you one and all for supporting me, and I'll see you at the next meeting. 'Bye.

Peter Payne

Important Information
From the Prez...

SDACE elections coming up in December, the 3rd of the month. The combined meetings of both groups, 8-bit and ST, will meet at the Adult Center of the North Park Recreational Center. The Adult Center is on the Northwest corner of the Park. Meeting time will be at 6:30 pm.

The first part of the meeting will be devoted to presentation of the slate of proposed officers, nominations from the floor, and voting.

The following are the proposed slated officers from the nominating committee:

President: Mark Lawless

8-bit VP: Ron Miller

ST VP: -----

Treasurer: Tom Andert

Secretary: David Delgadillo

As you can see, the ST Veep slot is open, and we will be taking nominations for all this and the other elected positions from the floor. Let me encourage all of you who wish to be involved in this capacity to do so. I believe that the upcoming year will prove to be very interesting for both Atari and SDACE. There will be many challenges and much satisfaction.

The second part of the meeting will be devoted to the reason why we exist--the Atari computers. Bring your 8-bit, your ST's and Mega's, even your 2600 if you have one. Bring software and hardware. Let's show each other what these machiens are able to do. It will be a time for showing off.

Since I've touched on the subject of software, I would like to encourage all of you to go out and either buy yourself a Christmas gift or leave messages to your family for a gift. There is no better way to learn about and to support Atari computers. Much in the way of new software out there: WordPerfect, Spectrum 512, new desktop publishing programs, IBM software (for PC:Ditto), and Macintosh software (for the Magic Sac). Get out there and enjoy yourself.

The last thing I would like to leave you with are my wished to all of you for both a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care of yourself during the holidays, and let's all look forward to a fresh future.

- David Delgadillo

Editor's Commentary

I'd just like to add a few things to what Dave has said. First of all, I really want everyone to try their best and make the December meeting. Voting is important, your one chance to put your two cents in. If you don't care enough about SDACE to take one evening off and come down to North Park with us, then you probably aren't getting enough out of the club for you to bother with it at all. Please show up.

The past year has been, for me, an interesting and fulfilling one. I have not regretted my rather snap decision back in December of '85 to be the newsletter editor, nor am I happy to see the job go to someone else. I haven't been perfect as your newsletter editor, but I've always tried to meet my deadlines, and it's been a good experience for me. Time simply won't allow me to continue, unfortunately, so I'm passing the torch to Tom Bryant next month.

I've been in SDACE since '82, when I got my Atari 400 (for \$250!) system. I've gotten a lot out of SDACE over the years, programming help, public domain software, friends, etc. By being the editor for a year I've taken pride in giving something back to the club, which is really here for everyone, not just one group.

If you're a new member of SDACE, I encourage you to keep going to the meetings, and make SDACE work as much for you as possible. Help out where you can, be an active member, work a booth at the San Diego Computer Society's computer show each year. When you're comfortable with the club, volunteer for an elected post. Being an SDACE officer is a good experience, and you'll feel like you're putting some back in to the club. If you're thinking about breaking the bonds of apathy which seem to hold everyone in the club and volunteering for a position, please stand up and be heard; don't just say, "Well, someone's already running, I won't bother." We need you at SDACE.

8-Bit Gazette

By Ron Miller, 8-bit V.P.

November News

Our meeting was attended by about twelve members. We focused on 8-bit computer sound. Ed Woods demonstrated sound digitizing and playback (i.e., capture the spoken human voice and play it back with some interesting modifications). Several members brought music playing programs. The librarian demonstrated a program for compressing and uncompressing digital pictures which really saves disk storage.

The 8-bit club supported the San Diego Computer Society computer show held November 7-8. Most of the action at this show was centered around Atari, Amiga and the Mac II. The 8-bit volunteers at our booth were Ron Miller, Robert Bates, Dick Haitt, and Eugene Saxby. The most common question I received was why should someone buy an 8-bit computer today. In my opinion, the best answer is price, i.e., you can get an 800XL and 1050 disk drive for about \$210. I wonder how the rest of your guys answered that question, huh?

Our December meeting is a combined meeting with the ST group. In January the 8-bit meeting will focus on languages. I am willing to talk about Forth and will do some demos if anyone is interested. I have one very interesting program (written in Forth) for the club library.

What is the Atari 8-bit Club?

Our 8-bit Atari Computer Club is a non-profit, voluntary organization which provides services to people who own 8-bit Atari computers and who join our club. The club is a mutual club, which means it is owned and run by its members. The services we provide are as follows:

1. A Club Newsletter. Our newsletter is mailed to about 200 addresses of which about 125 are 8-bit and 125 are ST owners (some of us own both). The rest are sent to software houses, advertisers, developers, and Atari. The newsletter contains noteworthy news about club activities

(more on this later), news about the Atari computer market-place, occasional reviews and buy/sell ads. Club members can run buy/sell ads in the newsletter for free. If you have something to say, you can say it in the newsletter and you will reach about 200 people. It is my opinion that most club members join the club just for the newsletter.

2. A Software Library. Over the years the software library has acquired much 8-bit software and as time goes on and the 8-bit software market shrinks, this library will become the only source of 8-bit software. Right now and in the future, the club library represents our most important asset. Our current club librarian (Dave Becker) spend much time collecting interesting software and making it available to club members. Club members can copy any library software at the convenience of both the member and the librarian. Usually this can be easily accomplished at club meetings.

3. A Bulletin Board System. Our BBS (operated by Ed Woods) gets about 600 calls per month. In terms of contact with our club, there is more activity on the BBS than anywhere else. Our library contains free communications software and the BBS has help facilities that make it easy to use. If you aren't up on BBSs in today's computer world there is more communications and problem solving, questions and discussions, etc., on BBSs than all the club meetings put together.

4. Club Meetings. At meetings we discuss club news, club activities such as computer shows, status of the newsletter, library, BBS and club board of directors meetings. At meetings, members can talk to the librarian and BBS Sysop, ask questions about hardware and software, buy and sell their own hardware and demonstrate their own projects to interested members. Our meetings have had between ten and twenty members. Our club meetings are not set up to provide entertainment for the members. Members must bring their own entertainment (i.e., questions, enthusiasm, software, discussion). We usually have two computer systems available for work, however, members may bring their own systems so they will have their own toys to play with. It is my opin-

S.D.A.C.E. Classifieds

For Sale: Quality 1200 Baud modem
8-bit and ST cables, \$60
Call Rick, 284-2365

800XL 256K, 1050, 48K 800,
assorted 8-bit software,
ST software: Strip Poker, Thunder,
VIP, Ultima II, Gato, Mindshadow,
Sundog, Music Studio, Paintwork,
Why wait? and dBman.
Call Guy Davis, 462-9704

Atari CX85 Numeric Keypad (8-bit),
40 Track DS drive, 80 Track DS drive,
Rick Dehaven 284-2365

**Hey, you! Use the S.D.A.C.E.
Classifieds! You think we put them
here for our health?**

LISTING OF SAN DIEGO AREA ATARI BBSs

Area code 619, 300/1200 BAUD, 24 hours a day
unless otherwise noted

Code	Name	Computer	Baud	Number
3	Fred's Place	8-bit	2400	560-8173
3	Polaris	8-bit	3/12	566-6210
3	The Highlands	8-bit	3/12	298-8475
	The Atari Fortress	8-bit	3/12	426-4253
3	8-bit SDAce	8-bit	3/12	566-3430
1	Sherwood Forest	8-bit/ST	3/12	276-5603
4	ST-SDACE	ST	2400	284-3821
4	ST MIDI Connection	ST	2400	452-7535
5	! Computer Blvd.	ST	2400	589-0565
5	Computer Plus BBS	ST	2400	691-7862
4	* Computer Outlet	ST	2400	282-6815

1 = TCxe, 2 = Forem, 3 = BBS Express
4 = Michtron ST, 5 = Forem ST

(* = Limited hours, ! = Magic Sac support)

**Help keep this list updated:
contact the editor if you know of
any corrections. Thanks!**

Easel/ST

Reprinted from Current Notes
November 1987

Computer Fenestrations has just released a nifty new utility. It's called *EASEL/ST*, and it lets you install any Degas (Degah) or Neochrome picture as the background of your desktop. To use the program simply place it in an auto folder along with a copy of your favorite art work in the root directory. The picture will have to be renamed "EASELST" so that the program knows which picture to load. That's it. Now, whenever you boot the disk the picture will be there on your desk, but everything else will be the same. Run a program from a window, then return to the desktop, and your picture will still be there.

Right about now you're probably thinking to yourself that this is nice, but hardly practical. Well, actually there are quite a few ideas to put this program to work for you. How about drawing up your users' group logo, then at the next meeting instead of staring at a dull green screen between demonstrations you can promote your next meeting time. Another idea could be to make a picture that describes what's on a particular disk along with any special instructions. By doing this even someone who may not be terribly experienced with the ST could get started by simply booting up the computer and reading the text on the desktop.

I've tested *EASEL/ST* with quite a few popular ST programs and have found none to date that have problems with this program. It should be noted that programs like Easy Draw and VIP Professional have the desktop in the background of the program so whatever picture was installed with still be there when you execute programs like these. This can lead to innovative uses of *EASEL/ST* that are application specific.

You can probably tell that I like the program and at least one reason for this is that it falls into a rare class of programs that do what they're supposed to do. It's not copy protected, and is very reasonably priced. At only \$19, this program makes a fine addition to anyone's library.

- Kirk Osterman

ion that meetings are the least important club activity offered. From the standpoint of interfacing with club members, meetings provide the least amount of contact.

5. The 8-bit Vice President. The VP is the 8-bit club elected representative to board meetings and other club activities. He provides a focal point for supporting club activities and helping with club services. He writes for the club newsletter; however, this is not a required part of his duties. He is also not a program chairman who is responsible for lining up entertainment for meetings. The 8-bit club does not have a program chairman or a meeting program. Meetings are created by the members who come.

The Atari 8-bit computer club has no association with Atari Corporation (we say that in every newsletter). The club is not responsible for selling Atari computers, nor is it our policy to spend time downgrading non-Atari computer systems. We are happy with our toys and are willing to share that with each other. That sharing is done the services offered by the club (newsletter, BBS, library, and meetings). Our club is as

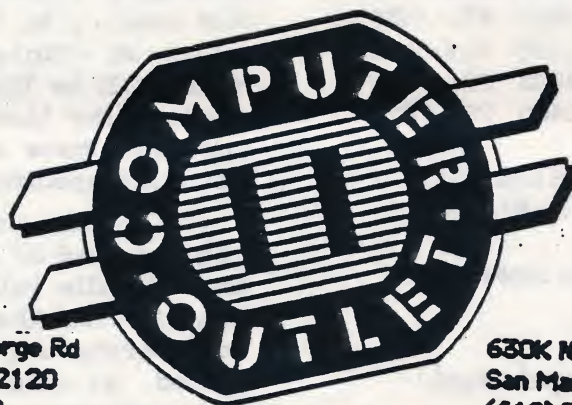
simple as that. Nothing more and nothing less. Some people tend to judge our club by meetings alone. If they do that, they are missing about 90% of the real 8-bit club. The real 8-bit club happens to be librarian Dave Becker, BBS Sysop Ed Woods, Newsletter Editor Peter Payne, and least important (the one who does the least work), 8-bit VP Ron Miller. And not the least, of course, are the 8-bit club members, for whom the club exists. In my opinion, that defines the 8-bit Atari Computer Club.

- Ron Miller



CAUTION

COMPUTER OUTLET MAY BE HABIT FORMING



5945 Mission Gorge Rd
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 282-6200

630K Hardahl Rd
San Marcos, CA 92069
(619) 740-0111

6% off all non-sale software and hardware on your next purchase.

COMWORD II

BIBLE Information management and
retrieval database system.

Old and New Testaments in the King James version.

Creek and Hebrew dictionary

Strong Exhaustive concordance

Lightning fast word search, just define any word or words you wish to research, define where to look. A specific book, or New testament, or the whole Bible, wait 30 seconds and all the verses are displayed and can then be saved to an ascii file. Then take it to your favorite word processor!

STRONGS WORD SEARCH/MULTIPLE KEY WORD SEARCH/Dictionary

REFERENCE (DISPLAY ANY CREEK OR HEBREW WORD DEFINITION)/

SCRIPTURE SELECTION/STRONGS WORD SEARCH/BACKWARDS

SEARCHING/PRINTING

Save all aspects of window display configurations, search limits, etc.,...

For your ease of use.

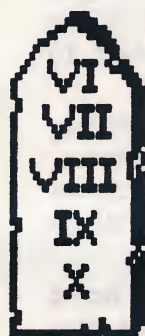
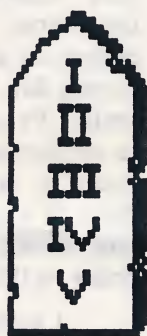
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Normally a \$540 program. Your cost is \$430, OR \$350 to the first 3 responses to this ad!

Requires a minimum of 9.3 Megabytes of space on a Hard Disk Drive. Works on all ST's. COMWORD II is a copyright of Word of God software

Inc.

CALL GARY HEINTZ AT 741-7467



USED SOFTWARE

DATAMANAGER BY TIMEWORKS. Database program, only \$40.00

FANTASY BY S.S.I. Fantasy Roleplaying game. \$20.00

SPACE QUEST BY SIERRA. Adventure game. \$20.00

POWER EDIT wordprocessing software by Power Systems. \$7.50

GENIE Network Users manual & binder only \$8.00

Call Gary at 741-7467

ST Vice President's Comdex Report

Rick DeHaven

I don't want to, I don't want to... But, as usual, the newsletter editor wins and I submit yet another article! (Cheers can be heard in the background).

Well, another Comdex has come and gone and Atari has announced a few new things for us to ask Santa for (not this xmas, but maybe next). On to the early arrivals...

Atari's laser printer should be out real soon, within the next month or so. The latest word I hear is that the price will not be inexpensive like we had been told a year ago. Rumor control has pegged somewhere in the \$2000 area. Why does Atari think that they can get away with this? One reason, *speed*. Not that six pages per minute is the fastest thing going, but that it can dump a full graphics page in about thirty seconds where a normal laser can take from five to twenty minutes to spit out a full page of graphics. Oh, sure, you can buy a card for your IBM that will let it run as fast, but the card will cost you almost the same as a 1040!!

A Read-Only remote control CD ROM player that will also have the ability to play music CD's as well was also talked about. \$600 announced price on this one.

PromiseLAN for all of Atari's product lines (ST's last). This network is one of the most popular in the PC world. It allows you to connect to PC and Mac's so all can share information. (This is real important to getting the ST some business exposure).

DeskSet, a professional typesetting system designed for the Mega 4 computer. DeskSet will work with Atari's laser printer or hook up to a CompuGraphics compatible typesetting machine.

Also shown were two new hard disks styled after the Mega computers, the Mega File 20 and 40. With cases like those of the Mega CPU and compatible with all ST computers, 20 meg price is \$899 versus the \$699 price tag on the older unit.

Microsoft Write was promised out before the end of this year. This is a powerful graphics based word processor that will allow a variety of fonts, sizes and styles on a page. Anyone familiar with Word 1.05 on a Mac will not even have to

open the manual; this is a direct port.

What would Comdex be like without some new PC's? Atari showed four or five PC's too, ranging from the one-disk PC workstation all the way to the PC5, a **screaming 80386 at 20 mhz!**

I saved the best for last, as I know how really interesting news always tends to screw up one's reading abilities. ABAQ, a high-end graphics workstation, based on the Inmos T800 Transputer Chip. Transputers use parallel processing performance by adding more T800's. The ABAQ with only one of these is rated at 10 MIPS, more than 10 times the throughput of the ST. Atari has given it the ability to add up to 12 more of these or 64 Megabytes of DRAM. The power of a supercomputer at your desk. To match the power four super resolutions are available. Highest is 1280 x 960 with 16 colors on screen. Second, 1024 x 768 with 256 colors. Third is 640 x 480 times 2 screens also with 256 colors. Lastly a low resolution of 512 x 480 with 16.8 million colors on the screen at one time! With resolutions like these, Atari hopes it has provided a graphics mode for most needs ranging from 3D CAD wireframe to finely shaded graphics on the other end. ABAQ will provide a multi-tasking/multi-user operating system called Helios with a windowing environment called X-Windows. The ABAQ will be offered in two configurations. One to be hooked up to the expansion slot in the Mega computers, using them for keyboard and I/O, or a standalone unit. Prices are not known at this time. It is expected that it will be less costly than a Mac II, however. With a full system for a Mac II running in the \$6-\$7 thousand area the ABAQ could be in the \$3-\$4 thousand zone, without a monitor.

I know what you're all asking yourself: "So, how is this going to affect Al Franken?" Or at least, "How can this help ST sales?" Well my guess is that Atari will of course offer a terminal program designed specifically for the ABAQ/ST combo. Thus selling a number of ST's to be hooked up to each ABAQ sold. Once more of the ST's are sold, this will increase the installed user base and make software development on a major scale much more of a reality for

large companies like Microsoft and Ashton-Tate, to name only two.

Moving on from the vaporware to the real stuff, WordPerfect is out and is selling quite well, thank you. This one is really loaded with power. Now if you need the best then you can buy the best there is.

The BBS has moved in to the fast lane. A 2400 baud modem was purchased at the request of the users. Donations are requested to help defray the cost of the latest addition. Thanks go out to those who have already contributed. The old 1200 baud modem is for sale, only \$60 and two cables. One for the ST and one for the 8-bit's 850 interface. If interested, call the BBS or me, voice (both numbers are on the second page of the newsletter).

And last but not least, I want to tell you about the club elections at the next General Meeting. It will be held on the first Thursday (the third!!!) of December at 2719 Howard Street. That is the same place as the Magic Sac/Beginners/CAD 3D SIGS meeting. Voting for next year's officers will be at this meeting. If you want to have a say in where your club is going in 1988 then I suggest that you make it there. We are in need of a new ST-VP to take over my shoes, as I will not be running for the office again. Users interested in having more fun than they are now having should apply!

[Editor's note: I'd like to say goodbye to Rick DeHaven, ST-VP for the past year and past President and Vice-President of SDACE. I know we'll all miss him, but it'll be nice to have him around on the BBS--yes, he is continuing as Sysop of the club's board--and we're sure he'll keep in touch with the club.]

Being 'in charge' of anything is difficult, and Rick's done a great job (even if he's always the last officer to turn in his newsletter article!). We all wish you the best at Computer Outlet and in your future life, Rick, and hope to see you at the next few hundred meetings.]

**Remember, the December
General Meeting is on
December 3rd! Go and vote
for your club's officers!
2719 Howard Street!**

To My Darling Husband

By W.J. Parsons
Reprinted from RUGAC

I am sending you this letter in a bogus software company envelope so that you will be sure to read it. Please forgive the deception, but I thought you should know what has been going on at home since your ST computer entered our lives two years ago.

The children are doing well. Tommy is now seven and is a bright handsome boy. He has developed quite an interest in arts. He drew a family portrait for a school project. The chair and the back of your head were very realistic. You would be very proud of him.

Little Jennifer turned three in September. She looks a lot like you did at that age. She is an attractive child, and quite smart. She still remembers that you spent the whole afternoon with us on her birthday. What a grand day for Jen, despite the fact that it was stormy and the electricity was out.

I am also doing well. I went blonde about a year ago and was delighted to discover that they do have more fun.

Lars, I mean Mr. Swenson, the department head, has taken in an interest in my career, and has become a good friend to us all. I have discovered that household chores are much easier since I realized that you didn't mind being vacuumed, but that feather dusting makes you sneeze.

The house is in good shape. I had the living room painted last spring. I'm not sure you noticed it. I made sure the painters dropped holes in the drop cloth so you wouldn't be disturbed.

Well, my dear, I must be going. Uncle Lars, I mean Mr. Swenson, is taking us all on a ski trip and there is packing to do. I have hired a housekeeper to take care of things while we are away. She'll keep things in order, fill your coffee cup, and bring your meals to your computer room, just the way you like it. I hope you and the ST have a lovely time while we are gone. Tommy, Jen and I will think of you often. Try to remember us while your disks are booting.

Love,
Mary

FOR ALL YOUR HARDWARE - SOFTWARE NEEDS

WARNER'S

ATARI SALES AND SERVICE

- FREE MONTHLY 'ST' WORKSHOP
- PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY
- MIDI STUDIO
- REPAIR DEPARTMENT
- LARGEST SOFTWARE SELECTION

3545 MIDWAY DRIVE, SUITE 'C' SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

PHONE 224-5090

San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 203076
San Diego, CA 92120



EXP: JUN 88

SAN DIEGO, CA 92126

Both the **ST** and the **8-bit** meetings will be held on **Thursday, December 3rd**, at the Adult Room of the North Park Rec Center, **2719 Howard Ave.**, at **6:30**. Voting, doorprizes and a joint ST/8-bit meeting will be going on, so be there!